

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-01 /004 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: AF/E:SHIPPY:SM

APPROVED BY: AF/E:WBCOOTE

EUR/IB:JHUFF

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R 160026Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219966

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 5272 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN LONDON
MADRID MOSCOW PARIS ROME STOCKHOLM NATO DIA USCINCEUR 09 SEPT

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5272

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: COUNCIL TILTS TOWARD ANTUNES NINE

REF: A-207 DATED SEPT 4, 1975

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING SEPT 8 MEETING, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC)
ANNOUNCED DECISIONS TO: RESTRICT MEDIA COVERAGE OF ACTIVITIES
WITHIN MILITARY; REINTEGRATE MELO ANTUNES, VITOR ALVES, AND COSTA
MARTINS; STUDY PROJECT FOR RESTRUCTURING OF AFM AND RC; DISCIPLIN
MILITARY POLICE UNITS WHICH HAD REFUSED TO EMBARK FOR ANGOLA;
AND STUDY "SERIOUS" STATEMENTS BY PPD LEADERS. DECISIONS
REPRESENT CLEAR VICTORY WITHIN RC IN FAVOR OF ANTI-COMMUNISTS.
END SUMMARY.

1. COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MET AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF SEPT 8.
COMMUNIQUE RELEASED FOLLOWING MEETING ANNOUNCED:
-- MEDIA RESTRICTIONS: COINCIL APPROVED LAW BARRING MEDIA FROM
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REPORTING ON ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE WITHIN MILITARY UNITS OR

ESTABLISHMENTS UNLESS INFORMATION RELEASED BY PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC, RC, CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, CHIEF OF STAFF OF INDIVIDUAL SERVICES OR COPCON. ('-5 CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT)

-- REINTEGRATION: COUNCIL APPROVED REINTEGRATION OF MELO ANTUNES, VITOR ALVES, AND COSTA MARTINS AS RC MEMBERS.

-- RESTRUCTURING: LOURENCO WILL LEAD GROUP COMPOSED OF TWO REPS FROM EACH SERVICE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE SERVICE CHIEFS TO STUDY AND REPORT TO NEXT RC ON RESTRUCTURING RC AND AFM ASSEMBLY.

-- MILITARY POLICE: COUNCIL DENOUNCED REFUSAL OF SOME MILITARY POLICE UNITS TO EMBARK FOR ANGOLA AS BREACH OF "REVOLUTIONARY DISCIPLINE" AND SAID THAT DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS WOULD BE METED OUT BY ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF AND COPCON.

-- PPD INVESTIGATIONS: COUNCIL CREATED COMMITTEE TO STUDY RECENT "SERIOUS" STATEMENTS BY PPD LEADERS (PRESUMABLY THOSE AT SEPT 5 OPORTO RALLY TO EFFECT THAT AFM SHOULD BE DISBANDED AND THAT PPD COULD, IF NECESSARY, PUT 50,000 UNDER ARMS).

2. COMMENT: DECISIONS REVEAL CONTINUING COSTA GOMES PENCHANT FOR COMPROMISE.

-- MEDIA RESTRICTIONS: DECISIONS RELATING TO MEDIA ACCESS CAN BE RATIONALIZED BY LEFT AS BEING DIRECTED AGAINST UNILATERAL DOCUMENTS SUCH AS THE ANTUNES MANIFESTO. MEDIA RESTRICTIONS NOW HAVE MORE APPEAL TO ANTI-COMMUNISTS, FROM THEIR NEW POSITION OF STRENGTH, WITH THE BONUS OF PUTTING A FURTHER STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF RAMIRO CORREIA'S COMMUNIST-LINING J-5. RESTRICTIONS ARE VERY BAD NEWS FOR A PRESS AND PUBLIC WHICH HAS IN LAST FEW MONTHS BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO UNPRECEDENTED DEGREE OF FREEDOM. THERE IS SOME DOUBT AS TO WHETHER PRESS WILL OBEY THE DIRECTIVE AND WHETHER RC WILL ENFORCE IT.

-- REINTEGRATION AND RESTRUCTURING: REINTEGRATION OF ANTUNES AND ALVES IS SOFTENED FOR LEFT BY INCLUSION OF COSTA MARTINS. THE TWO NAVY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY AFM RESTRUCTURING WILL LIKELY REFLECT THE LEFTIST SENTIMENTS OF THE NAVY ASSEMBLY BUT ARE LIKELY TO BE OPPOSED BY FIVE OTHER MEMBERS UNDER LEADERSHIP OF "ANTUNES NINE" MEMBER LOURENCO. THE OVERALL COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE SET UP UNDER VASCO LOURENCO TO STUDY THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE RC AND THE AFM ASSEMBLY IS LIKELY TO REINFORCE THE SHIFT IN FAVOR OF THE ANTI-COMMUNISM BY OUR COUNT, ANTI-COMMUNISTS NOW HAVE TEN; NON-COMMUNIST SWING GROUP HAS FOUR; LEFT-LEANING, BUT NOT COMMUNIST GROUP HAS FIVE; AND CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS HAVE SIX. (SEPTTEL).

-- MILITARY POLICE: DECISION ECHOES RECENT COMMENTS ON MILITARY

DISCIPLINE BY ARMY CHIEF FABIAO AND CONSTITUTES REBUKE TO MAJ. TOME AND MANY OF SAME FAR LEFT ELEMENTS WHICH SUPPORTED THE RADICAL DOCUMENT OF COPCON OFFICERS.

-- PDD INVESTIGATIONS: ALTHOUGH THE STATEMENTS AT PPD RALLIES REFERRED TO ABOVE ARE PROBABLY THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE

DECISION, TH RECENT STATEMENT ALONG SIMILAR LINES BY FORMER
PPD LEADER SA CARNEIRO (REFAIR) WAS PROBABLY ALSO A FACTOR.
DECISION UNDERSCORES POOR TIMING BY PPD LEADERSHIP IN GIVING VENT
TO PENT-UP CRITICISMS.

3. IN SHORT, THIS WAS A CLEAR VICTORY FOR THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS.
THE SHIFT I NIMBERS WITHIN THE RC MAKES THE SOLUTION A CLEAR
TILT IN FAVOR OF THE ANTUNES NINE, AND THE "NINE" HAS NOW
REGAINED ITS LOST MEMENTUM.
CARLUCCI UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE219966
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/E:SHIPPY:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750320-0067
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750948/aaaabqbg.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DAR ES SALAAM A-207
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNCIL TILTS TOWARD ANTUNES NINE
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: DAR ES SALAAM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006